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FRESNO MAN INDICTED ON CHILD EXPLOITATION CHARGES

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, Fresno County Sheriff Richard Pierce, and Resident Agent In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Scott Brown announced today that a federal grand jury sitting in Fresno returned an eight-count indictment against STEVEN REGIER, 41, of Fresno, California.

This case was investigated by the Fresno County Sheriff's Department and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The indictment alleges that, on two separate occasions, REGIER traveled to Germany and arranged to have a person under the age of 18 return back with him and live in his home in Fresno, California. According to the indictment, Regier arranged to have the minors stay with him so he could sexually abuse both minors during the course of their stay. The indictment details that Regier placed Temazepam, a drug commonly used to aid sleep, into the victims' food and, once they fell asleep, sexually assaulted the victims. The indictment also alleges that REGIER used Temazepam on a third victim, again sexually assaulting that victim. In that instance, REGIER videotaped the sexual assault.

United States Attorney McGregor Scott commented, "This case serves as but another example of the concerted effort of federal and local law enforcement to target those who would victimize our children. The exploitation of children is reprehensible and must be combated vigorously."

"Whether a sexual predator is on the Internet exploiting our virtual borders or is an alien who has preyed on children, ICE is using all of its law enforcement authorities to identify them and bring them to justice," said Scott Brown, Resident Agent In Charge for ICE. "We are committed to doing everything possible to prevent the exploitation of children both here and abroad."

According to Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jonathan B. Conklin and David L. Gappa, who are prosecuting the case, if convicted, the maximum penalty for each offense alleged in count one and three is a minimum sentence of five years imprisonment and a maximum sentence of thirty years imprisonment. Counts two and four carry a maximum sentence of thirty years imprisonment. Counts five, six and seven each carry a maximum sentence of twenty years and count eight carries a minimum sentence of fifteen years and a maximum sentence of thirty years. Each count also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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